the pre-recruitment formalities such as medical examination, verification of character and antecendents. The Commission does not monitor the status of the issue of offer of appointment to the recommended candidates at a given point of time.

While it is difficult to specify by when all the candidates will be issued offers of appointment, it is clarified that as per the existing instructions, there is no expiry period of the select panel prepared on the results of a competitive examination with reference to firm number of vacancies. Therefore, the candidates recommended for appointment by SSC would be required to be adjusted by the indenting offices first before they report further vacancies to SSC for subsequent year's examination.

Functioning of Instrumentation Limited, Kota

*714. SHRI GHUFAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports on the functioning of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota;

(b) whether any outcome has been received from the BIFR to which the case of this sick PSU had been referred;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi dated the 5th May, 1995 under the caption "IL workers decry privatisation bid"; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BIFR has asked the Operating Agency (OA) to invite offers from private parties for takeover/merger of Instrumentation Ltd. The OA is yet to evaluate the offers/plans. BIFR has not yet taken any final decision in the matter.

(c) and (d) The news item captioned "IL workers decry privatisation bids", stated that some employees of IL have criticised the efforts being made to privatise the Company. The technical strength of the Company, high interest burden and importance of the Company were also referred to in the news item.

Efforts for consensus on Lok Pal Bill

*715. SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 122 and its Supplementaries given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 1994 and state by when Government are going to start or complete the process of bringing about a consensus on the draft of the Lok Pal Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): The Government has addressed leaders of the Parliamentary parties to offer their comments relating to legislation for setting up of Lokpal.

Committee on DPAP and DDP projects

*716. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Chairman, Technical Committee, to go into the working of the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) projects;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of the Technical Committee, its salient features and the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND

EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Technical Committee submitted its report on 23rd April, 1994.

(b) Recommendations of the Technical Committee, its salient features and action taken thereon are at Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Detailed guidelines for watershed development drawn on the basis of these recommendations have been issued to all concerned States/districts for implementation w.e.f. 1st April, 1995.

Statement

Details of recommendations of the Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) & Desert Development Programme (DDP) constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao

1. Conservation of natural resources has to be made privately profitable by providing necessary insfrastructure, technologies and institutional backup.
2. Greater attention has to be given to peoples own strategies and their own indigenous technologies including the locally preferred plants so as to incorporate them in the Programmes to mitigate the rigours of drought.
3. Provision of adequate infrastructure and other facilities would be necessary to attract and retain the talented professionals and administrative personnel to service the development and the Minimum Needs Programmes.
4. Establishment of wool processing units and tanneries in drought prone and desert areas can raise the employment and income for local people and thus reduce nomadism and migration which will have favourable impact on environment. Development of crafts and other income earning opportunities will have the similar effect of reducing nomadism.
5. The Technical Committee reiterates that harmonious management, development and utilisation of land, water and vegetation resources on watershed basis, and the creation of complementary opportunities for processing and marketing of value added goods produced in such areas should be the essence of these area development programmes.
6. The treatment plan for the watershed should include all categories of lands including private, village commons, Revenue and degraded Forest Lands. As far as possible the selected watershed should be covering a village/hamlet.
7. The Technical Committee was of the view that watershed development programme should be implemented with the total participation of the beneficiaries. This can be ensured by having a Watershed Development Team (WDT) whose General Body shall consist of all the adult members of watershed area. However, for operational convenience the watershed development team shall consist of 10 members of whom atleast 5 shall be women. The representation to SCs & STs in the watershed team shall be in proportion to their strength in the general body. The team shall be assisted by 2 persons comprising of a Village Levei Extension Officer/ Worker drawn from Agriculture/Animal Husbandry/Forest/Horticulture Development and another preferably a Matriculate educated village youth selected by the beneficiaries of the micro-watershed.
8. In any given year, only a micro-watershed with about 500 ha. will be taken up for management and development. The assignment of watershed functionaries shall take effect *six months previous to the commencement* of the year in which the watershed is taken up for development. The functionaries shall undergo a multi disciplinary training dur-

ing the first three months and they will spend the next three months in survey and preparation of plan for implementation during the year of operation.

9. Funds will be earmarked for watershed development and released to the Watershed Development Team through the Panchayats. The Watershed Development Team shall render the accounts to Panchayats.

10. While it would not be affordable financially to think to providing the services of block level field functionaries for each watershed, it may be a desirable proposition to create such Multi disciplinary Technical Team of block level officers for cluster of watersheds and could be located in a centrally and accessible place like taluk or block headquarters to cater to the needs of the cluster of watersheds.

11. While finalising the plans of the concerned States, the Planning Commission should ensure, through appropriate mechanisms, that in drought prone areas, the relief works are integrated with area development plans designed to conserve soil and moisture through the development of watershed and to generate other income earning opportunities on a sustained basis which alone can mitigate the adverse effects of drought on a lasting basis.

12. Determined efforts and concrete steps are required to promote voluntarism in evolving and implementing DPAP and DDP. This would mean not only the involvement of the existing voluntary organisations who are genuine and competent, but creating conditions, through favourable policy and bureaucratic receptivity for the proliferation of local groups consisting of motivated and dedicated people for undertaking such responsibilities. It would be desirable to move towards the goal of entrusting ultimately 25 percent of watersheds to the voluntary organisation for the implementation of DPAP and DDP.

13. The State Governments concerned may constitute State Level Committees for the Promotion of Voluntary Action for DPAP and DDP. The Chief Minister of the State may chair the Committee which may consist predominantly of representatives of established Voluntary Organisations and senior officers of the Government Departments concerned.

14. A Committee at the district level under the Chairmanship of District Collector consisting mainly of representatives of Voluntary Organisations may be constituted identifying genuine and competent Voluntary Organisation for planning and implementation of watershed development projects.

15. The components should not be predetermind, as at present. There should be total flexibility in this regard and the actual choice of the components should emerge from the watershed plans prepared by implementing agencies including beneficiaries.

16. It should be the policy of the State Governments to persuade the community to maintain the structures created under the programmes by handing over such assets to them.

17. In order to cover all the areas in the watershed, the subsidy on programme works should be given to all the beneficiaries irrespective of the size of the holding of the land owners.

18. Keeping in view the critical importance of generation of wastelands and prevention of further degradation of lands and the large magnitude of the problem, it is advisable that the States should also contribute a suitable matching share in wastelands

development schemes as in the case of DPAP.

19. Adoption of the unified approach and integration of related programmes in rural development should, in our estimates, make available, at current level of funding, at least a sum of Rs. 1500 crores every year for this important national work of watershed development.

20. The integration of schemes/programmes at the state of planning and implementation, provision of funds, etc. should be done at the appropriate sanctioning levels, namely the DRDA or at the State Government.

21. To follows up the Committee's recommendations, the Ministry of rural Development should take necessary steps for effective coordination between the different wings of the Ministry as well as between the concerned Ministries. The Ministry should also formulate guidelines for bringing about uniformity of approach between the programmes under different agencies and should commission training modules for the preparation of the watershed development plans.

22. Ministry of Rural Development should support the Research Institutions for providing R&D back-up to these programmes.

23. Since in terms of the recommendations of this Committee, projects are to be sanctioned on the basis of the detailed plans prepared on watershed basis, the Committee would like to emphasis that training at various levels for the preparation of watershed development plans is going to be critical for the successful implementation of the programmes. The Ministry of Rural Development has to play a pivotal role in organising such training by way of selecting appropriate institutions, funding them, developing course modules for the purpose and montoring them.

24. The Committee recommended to include three eco-system-arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid under DPAP/ DDP instead of "desert" and "drought prone" areas as at present and also propose following irrigation criteria for-different eco-system on district basis.

M.I. (Moisture Index)	Permissible Programme	Eco-system	% irrigated area
<-66.7	DDP	Arid	50%
- 66.6 to -33.3	DPAP	Semi-arid	40%
- 33.2 to 0	DPAP	Dry-sub-humid	30%

26. Those arid and semi-arid districts where area irrigated constitutes more than 50% and 40% of the net cultivated area respectively may be totally excluded from the programme, whether DPAP or DDP. Similarly the dry-humid districts where more than 50% of the net sown area is irrigated may also be excluded.

27. The Ministry of Rural Develpment may obtain the necessary information on percentage of irrigation at the district and block level and select the districts and blocks for the programmes in accordance with the formula recommended by us.

28. The blocks should be selected as per the following norms in the eligible districts.

Ecosystem	Percentage of irrigation (eligible for inclusion)
Arid	Upto 30
Semi-arid	Upto 20
Dry Sub-humid	Upto 15

29. In each selected block, every village will be covered with 500 hectares area on watershed basis and within a period of 10 years all the villages may be covered by covering 1/10th of the number of villages in each year. This should provide the basis for allocation of funds to the States and Districts under the programmes.

30. The Committee recommended that funding from 1995-96 has to be on project basis only. Thus the new programmes will come into force from 1995-96 onwards.

31. The Committee recommended the constitution on National Policy Making and Review Committee on Watersheds under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, incharge of Rural Development in order to bring about coordination and unified approach in the implementation of watershed based area development schemes by different Ministries/Departments. The Department of Rural Development should function as the nodal department.

32. In order to bring about coordination at the state level, constitution of State Level Implementation and Review Committee is recommended under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary.

33. At least in States with substantial allocation for DPAP, DDP and IWDP, the Nodal Department at the State Level should be assisted by a Multi Disciplinary Team consisting of senior officers of the rankof Additional Director Joint Director from Departments of Agriculture, Forests, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Minor Irrigation.

34. There should be Multi Disciplinary Team at District Level headed by Additional Project Director for watersheds. The officers representing different disciplines, such as, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Forests and Minor Irrigation will constitute the Multi Disciplinary Team. The District Level Multi Disciplinary Team shall be responsible to guide the preparation of watershed development plans at watershed level, scrutinise them and accord administrative sanction.

35. The role of Ministry of Rural Development would now be to fund the programmes as stipulated and monitor them to ensure that the basic strategy i.e. planning and implementation on a watershed basis is being followed.

36. It will be necessary to organise independent evaluation studies on a large scale and on a regular basis through reputed independent and autonomous institutions including NGOs by adequately funding them.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DPAP AND DDP

1. The funding of comprehensive watershed based area development schemes to be done for projects of approximately 500 hectares.

2. Common guidelines for bringing about uniformity of approach between various area development programmes under different agencies.

3. Operational flexibility in terms of areas to be treated, works to be taken up and cost norms.

4. An elaborate mechanism for local people's involvement in planning and implementation of Watershed Development Projects.

5. Involvement of Voluntary Organisations as Project Implementation Agencies.

6. A distinct role for Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementation, monitoring and review of the Watershed Development Projects.

7. Provision of training for different levels of officials and field functionaries in various aspects of watershed development.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DPAP AND DDP

1. Additional districts and blocks have been identified for coverage under DPAP and DDP in accordance with the criteria suggested by the Hanumantha Rao Committee. From 1995-96 onwards, the total number of districts and blocks under DPAP would increase from 96 and 627 to 149 and 945 respectively. Similarly, the number of districts and blocks and DDP would be 36 and 227 respectively as against the earlier coverage of 21 districts and 131 blocks.

2. A new set of common guidelines for watershed development in DPAP, DDP and Wasteland areas have already been issued to all concerned State Governments. In addition, the guidelines envisage utilisation of 50% JRY-I and EAS funds as well for watershed development.

3. Training Programme on watershed development for district level officers viz, Collectors, Project Directors (DRDA)/Chief Development Officers/Chief Executive Officers (ZP) have been started already in collaboration with the national Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The Institute will also conduct training programmes for trainers from identified institutions from the Programme States who in turn would train the field functionaries at various levels. For this purpose, all the States have been advised to identify suitable institutions and nominate trainers from these institutions to MANAGE for the Trainers Training Programme.

4. The States have been requested to take immediate steps to get the watershed development plans prepared to be taken up during 1995-96 in accordance with the new guidelines issued.

5. The States have been requested to constitute State Level Watershed Programme Implementation & Review Committee, District Watershed Development Advisory Committee and to select Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) and villages for development of watershed projects.

6. DPAP and DDP allocations for 1995-96 have been made keeping in view the number of watershed projects likely to be taken up in different size-groups of programme blocks.

Weather Forecasting

*717. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Weather forecasting goes hi-tech" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated the 10th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up its latest equipments for forecasting weather in various Agricultural Universities for providing accurate weather forecasts;

(c) whether inspite of the use of the latest equipment, the weather forecasting department has failed to forecast the correct news about weather; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take in this regard?